

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 02338 211009Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-03 /012 W
----- 078128 /20
R 210815Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9150
INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS GABORONE 2338

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA (EATON WILLIAM F.)

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF AF/S ECONOMIC OFFICER

REF: STATE 305167

1. EMBASSY LOOKS FORWARD TO EATON VISIT FEBRUARY 7-11 . CONTROL
OFFICER: RICHARD HOOVER.

2. IN LINE WITH DISCUSSIONS WITH EATON IN THE DEPARTMENT
BEFORE I LEFT, MY HOPE WOULD BE TO ACCOMPANY HIM DURING AT LEAST
PART OF HIS TRIP OUTSIDE GABORONE. GIVEN UNCERTAINTY OF MY SCHE-
DULE (E.G. TIMING OF CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION IN MASERU AND MBABANE),
IT IS TOO EARLY FOR ME TO MAKE FIRM PLANS. MEANWHILE, PRESENT
INDICATIONS ARE THAT BOT-ZAM ROAD MAY BE UNOFFICIALLY OPENED
TO TRAFFIC THIS WEEK WITH OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONIES SCHEDULED
LATER IN JANUARY . THIS EVENT, WHICH I WOULD HOPE TO ATTEND,
MIGHT REQUIRE CHARTERING A SMALL AIRCRAFT, IN WHICH CASE EATON
COULD JOIN ME.

3. OTHERWISE, SINCE THE TIMING OF OFFICIAL ROAD OPENING DOES NOT
APPEAR TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH EATON S SCHEDULE, HE MAY WISH TO
ARRANGE AUTHORIZATION FROM DEPARTMENT TO CHARTER FLIGHT TO
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SELEBI-PIKWE. (ROUND-TRIP IN FIVE SEATER GABORONE-SELEBI-PIKWE-
NATA, WHERE BOT-ZAM ROAD BEGINS, WOULD BE ABOUT DOLS 580.) THIS
OPTION WOULD BE RECOMMENDED BECAUSE TRAVEL TO AND FROM NATA BY
CAR VIS SELEBI-PIKWE WOULD REQUIRE AT LEAST THREE DAYS (OF THREE-
AND-A-HALF-DAY VISIT).

4. BASED ON REPLY, WE WILL DEVELOP DETAILED PLANS FOR TRAVEL
OUTSIDE CAPITAL AND APPROPRIATE MEETINGS HERE WITH GOB AND
AMERICAN OFFICIALS.
NORLAND

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